GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:647
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN RURAL AREAS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up by the BSNL in the rural areas during 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2005-06, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve telecommunication facilties in rural areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 647 FOR 11TH MAY, 2005 REGARDING TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) 253 new telephone exchanges were opened in the rural areas network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the year 2004-05. Telecom Circle-wise detail is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c) The following steps have been taken to improve telecom facilities in the rural areas of the country:-

(i) Chief General Manger, Telecom Circles have been empowered to open new exchanges in rural areas as per the new norms and requirement in the field.

(ii) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based Village Public Telephone (VPTs).

(iii) Deployment of at least one Base Transmitting Station (BTS) of Wireless Local Loop (WLL) technology in each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA).

(iv) Conversion of 256P C-DOT Rural Automatic Exchange (RAX) to Access Node Rural Automatic Exhcnage (AN-RAX) and Single Base Modules (SBMs) to Remote Switching Units (RSUs) to provide facilties in rural areas at par with urban areas.

(v) Planning of Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) for provisioning of VPTs in remote and far-flung villages.

ANNEXURE

TELECOM CIRCLE-WISE STATUS OF RUAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Sl. No.	Telecom Circle	No. of exchanges opened during 2004-05
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0
2	Assam	2
3	Andhra Pradesh	87
4	Bihar	27
5	Chhattisgarh	0
6	Gujarat	0
7	Haryana	26
8	Himachal Pradesh	3
9	Jammu & Kashmir	7

10	Jharkhand	2
11	Kerala	14
12	Karnataka	2
13	Maharashtra	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	3
15	North East-I	9
16	North East-II	4
17	Orissa	13
18	Punjab	1
19	Rajasthan	1
20	Tamil Nadu	13
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	10
22	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1
23	Uttaranchal	7
24	West Bengal	14

Total 253